

free. He ranks next to the priest, and is treated by the villagers with considerable respect. I have found the Syrian *JcoJchas* as polite and obliging as the Persian *ketchudas*.

Although the Persian Government has been tolerably successful in subduing the Kurds within its territory, the Christians of the slopes of the • Urmi Plain are exposed to great losses of sheep and cattle from Kurdish mountaineers, who (it is said) cross the Turkish frontier, and returt into Turkey with their booty.¹

The American and English missionaries do not paint the Syrians *couleur de rose*, though the former during their long residence in the country must have lifted up several hundreds to the blessings of a higher life, and these in rising themselves must have exercised an unconscious influence on their brethren. Since I came I have seen several women whose tone would bear comparison with that of the best among ourselves, and who owe it gratefully to the training and influence of the Fiske Seminary. I like the women much better than the men.

The Christians complain terribly of the way in which "justice" is administered, and doubtless nothing can be worse, but the Europeans say that the people bring much of its hardship upon themselves by their frightful litigiousness, and their habit of going to law about the veriest trifles. Intense avarice seems to be a characteristic of the Syrians of the Persian plains, and they fully

share with other Orientals in the failings of
untruthful-
ness and untrustworthiness. They are said
to be very
drunken as well as grossly ignorant and
superstitious,
and the abuses and unutterable
degradation of their
church perpetuate all that is bad in the
national

¹ Later, I heard the same accusation "brought against
the Persian Kurds
by a high official in Constantinople.

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